SHRINE OF OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA
PAULINE FATHERS MONASTERY
DOYLESTOWN, PENNA.

THE PICTURE OF OUR LADY OF CZESTOCHOWA

(Chen-sto-hova)

Prior to the year 1382, the history of the Miraculous Picture of Our Lady of Czestochowa is shrouded in legend and tradition.

THE LEGEND claims St. Luke, the Evangelist as the painter of this picture. It was painted on a cypress table top from the Nazareth House. The image portrayed the Holy Mother pensive in sufferings, with deep sorrow reflected in Her eyes and clouded brow. In the year 326 St. Helen, the mother of Constantine the Great, located the Sacred Picture in Jerusalem and with a large collection of other relics brought it to Constantinople where it remained for centuries protected and venerated by the emperor's family.

As a part of the dowry in a marriage between royal families from Constantinople and Kiew the Holy Picture reached southern Poland.

Ladislaus, prince of Opole and regent for Louis the Great in Poland, in the war with the ruthen lords, found the Sacred Picture in the castle of Belz and seeking for a better place for the Venerable Image of the Blessed Mother brought it to Czestochowa, a small town in middle Poland.

To give proper protection to the Picture, Ladislaus in 1382 invited to Poland from Hungary, members of the Order of St. Paul the First Hermit, known as the Pauline Fathers.

SCIENCE traces the origin of the Picture to the 5th or 6th centary A.D. The Picture is one of the oldest of the Blessed Virgin in the world.

IN CZESTOCHOWA

The Pauline Fathers 600 years ago were entrusted with guarding the Miraculous Picture of Our Lady of Czestochowa. Under their direction the Shrine at Czestochowa became one of the largest in the world. Over 2 million pilgrims visit it annually.

The scars on the face of the Blessed Virgin are from 1430, when bandits, wanting to take the Picture, struck it with a sword.

The painting is covered with a robe of silk ornamented with precious jewels, pearls and diamonds.

The crowns were gifts of St. Pius X in 1910.

In 1656 the Blessed Virgin was declared Queen of Poland after the famous siege of Czestochowa by the invading army of Sweden. Father Augustine Kordecki, prior of the monastery, led the victorious defense of the small fortress for 40 days.

Since that time the Miraculous Picture has been the object of special veneration and devotion not only by Polish Catholics but by Catholics the world over.

This Shrine has a special significance, in these difficult days of persecution, for 30 million Catholics in Poland. The Catholic Hierarchy, priests and lay people are searching there for guidance, inspiration and perseverance.

THE AMERICAN CZESTOCHOWA — DOYLESTOWN, PA.

In 1955 the same Pauline Fathers established a monastery and Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown, near Philadelphia, Penna., as a similar Marian Center dedicated to Our Lady of Czestochowa in America.

The Shrine is situated on a large 170 acre estate which is conveniently located in Bucks County, Penna. close to New Jersey and New York, and only 25 miles north of Philadelphia and 10 miles from the Pennsylvania Turnpike.

Since the establishment of the Shrine in America there

have been pilgrimages every Sunday during the summer months. The pilgrimages begin the first Sunday in May and end the last Sunday in October.

Organized pilgrimages come by bus or private automobile. Individual visitors are welcome.

IT ALL BEGAN WITH A PICTURE

About 7 years ago a faithful reproduction of Our Lady of Czestochowa was blessed in the Miraculous Chapel in Czestochowa and after several months arrived in the United States. Housed in a chapel converted from a barn, the picture of Our Lady of Czestochowa nonetheless took fast root in the hearts and souls of American Catholics. Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims have, since then, traveled to the American Czestochowa.

To meet the spiritual needs of Catholics in America, the Pauline Fathers are preparing to erect a considerably larger and more suitable church named after Our Lady of Czestochowa.

The Pauline Fathers have also a novitiate for those who desire to become priests or lay brothers in the order of the Pauline Fathers.

All persons interested in Our Lady of Czestochowa can write for information to the Pauline Fathers:

Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa
Pauline Fathers Monastery
Doylestown, Penna.